

against controlling these deadly fentanyl analogs because they hope to use it as a bargaining chip to reduce criminal penalties for the most serious drug traffickers. Think about that. More Americans died of a drug overdose last year than in any other year in our history. Yet these liberal activists are trying to help the drug traffickers who spread these very poisons. If they succeed, drug dealers will have an easier time killing Americans for profit, and prosecutors will have to waste valuable resources proving that each new form of fentanyl they encounter is, in fact, a deadly drug.

We cannot play politics with this bill, trading the lives of innocent Americans for more lenient treatment of cartels and superlabs. Protecting Americans from deadly fentanyl should not be treated as a bargaining piece or poker chip. I ask my colleagues to think of the victims and think of the urgency of this measure. I am offering this bill on behalf of tens of thousands of Americans who were with us just last year but are not today because of these deadly synthetic drugs. I am offering this on behalf of the countless Americans who can still be saved if we act.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure and, therefore, Madam President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of S. 1410, introduced earlier today; further, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BOOKER. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. I am deeply grateful to my colleague and friend, the Senator from Arkansas, for bringing this to the floor of the U.S. Senate.

There is an urgency he described that I agree with. One hundred Senators here, and not one State has not been touched, devastatingly, by the fentanyl epidemic. These analogs present a crisis to our country. Lives are at stake so I share his sense of urgency.

I am hoping we can work together to find a way to stop, as he put it, these cartels and these drug labs from wreaking such havoc on our country. I believe that together we can find a solution. In fact, there has been constructive talk across the Capitol—bipartisan talk about finding a way to come to some kind of accord.

In addition to that, I am hopeful that there are other bills out there that have the same ambition, the same goal, the same sense of urgency that I believe should be part of the discussion; for example, policies like the ones in the STOP Fentanyl Act, which I understand Senator MARKEY will be introducing in the Senate very soon. I be-

lieve we should have time in the Judiciary Committee to work on a longer term solution that cannot just deal with the international cartels, not just deal with these horrific drug labs but also empower people who are addicted to begin not to be punished simply with the criminal justice system but to find ways to provide treatment and support to people who are struggling with addictions to this horrific drug.

So with that, I would like to object. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Objection is heard.

The junior Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. I thank my colleague from New Jersey for these remarks.

Time is not on our side. This emergency scheduling order expires next week. The Senate is not in session next week.

I know that we want to empower addicts, as the Senator from New Jersey said; that we want to help give them the treatment they need to get back on their feet. That is a goal I share.

We are talking, though, about drug dealers, drug traffickers, cartels, Chinese superlabs. If we do not pass an extension—in my bill, a permanent extension of this emergency scheduling order—it is the addicts who will be hurt because the drug dealers and these cartels and superlabs will simply begin to flood our streets, once again, with the synthetic fentanyl analogs, which I remind you, again, can be 150 times more potent than fentanyl itself, which is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine.

I hope my Democratic friends will reconsider in the short time we have this week, and we will be able to pass a permanent extension of this scheduling order.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I want to say, in conclusion, before I switch to another topic, that I appreciate the willingness of the Senator from Arkansas to look not just at his bill but a powerful potential bipartisan extension however we can deal with this. The urgency does exist. We are in a crisis.

NOMINATION OF SAMANTHA POWER

Madam President, I rise today to speak in support of Ambassador Power's nomination to serve as Administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development or USAID.

The mission of USAID is to advance the values of democracy throughout the world on behalf of the American people, and this mission has never been more critical than today.

If confirmed, Ambassador Power will lead an Agency tasked with responding not only to the global crisis of COVID-19 and its devastating impact on vulnerable people across the world but with responding to some of the most pressing challenges facing the United States and the international community: global democratic backsliding, human suffering caused by sexual- and

gender-based violence, climate change, and violent conflict around the world.

Now, Ambassador Power is an extraordinary public servant. She has distinguished herself in her career and is more than capable of leading USAID's efforts in addressing these global urgencies. She is clear-eyed and sober about the international challenges that she and USAID will face.

Over the past 4 years, experts and career professionals within the USAID were, unfortunately, silenced. Decisions were politicized, and recruitment and retention were inadequate. Ambassador Power will be the kind of leader this Agency now needs to restore integrity, transparency, and to rebuild the morale among the dedicated professionals who drive USAID's critical mission.

Ambassador Power also understands that the United States will remain a global leader—really, must remain a global leader—who will be able to counter the influence of China's aggressive diplomatic and development agenda. If the USAID is seen, once again, by our international partners as a competent and trustworthy partner, this mission of countering China will be stronger. If the USAID is a competent and trustworthy partner, we will build on our coalitions to counter China's aggressive actions.

President Biden could not have nominated someone more ready or more capable than Ambassador Power. She has had an impressive career from her work as a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist to spending 8 years in the Obama administration on the National Security Council, and then as the Ambassador to the United Nations, where she championed the rights of women, atrocity prevention, and LGBTQ rights, reaching consensus with other countries on vital U.S. interests while going toe to toe with our adversaries.

This is one of our more experienced international diplomats from America whom we have today, and by elevating Ambassador Power to the National Security Council, President Biden has made it clear that development and humanitarian assistance will be an integral component to meeting our foreign policy objectives. It is important that we understand that development and humanitarian assistance are a critical part of our foreign policy.

Finally, I just want to end with something that Ambassador Power shared in her most recent book. It is something that, I think, speaks so well to her humility, to her willingness to learn, and to why she will be the leader of the USAID—and, I say, of our entire Nation—and is what the world needs right now. Ambassador Power wrote about a meeting she had with the Ambassador from the Central African Republic, Charles Dabane, who described to her the horrific violence taking place in his country.

She wrote that, during that meeting, she told him she didn't have an agenda. She just wanted to learn from him

about what was happening in his country. She then writes that he starts speaking and then stops and gets very emotional. She assumes he is getting emotional about the horrific violence in his country, but he says to her, "No, it's not that, Ambassador. What is happening in my country is terrible—more terrible than anything that has ever happened to us before. But I am emotional because you are here. The United States of America is the greatest country in the world, and you, America, are here."

That is the vision of America that has defined Ambassador Power's career, that has guided her in the awesome responsibility of representing this Nation and her values—rooted in the ideals of humility, grace, compassion, and thoughtful leadership.

I have known Ambassador Power since she and I were very young. It has been decades now of friendship and connection. You can say many things about her, but her core is decency and honor. She will represent the best of us. She is exactly the leader we need right now as we navigate the increasing and pressing challenges facing the world and our country.

I am thankful. It would be enough for Ambassador Power to retire. It would be enough for her to say, "I have served my country" and, like Cincinnatus, will return to her plow, but, clearly, her calling has not yet fully been answered. She will continue, should this body believe it and endorse it, to serve this country. She will continue to honor the United States of America. She will continue to be a credit to our Nation and the world. That is why I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

FENTANYL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I am 5 minutes late in coming to the Senate floor. I was supposed to be here on the fentanyl issue to support Senator COTTON. I know that an objection has been raised, but I want people to know how important I think this issue is.

Today, we were considering—hopefully, by unanimous consent—passing a bill to permanently schedule fentanyl substances. Proactively scheduling fentanyl-related substances ought to be a big priority because too many Americans' lives have been lost to reject this critical measure.

Some wrongly assert that controlling fentanyl analogs is partisan and unnecessary. That is simply untrue. Legislation to schedule fentanyl analogs is a bipartisan issue. Just last year, this body passed a bipartisan, 15-month extension bill unanimously. Also, such authority is necessary. The CDC estimates that fentanyl analogs have killed 50,000 Americans in the last 12 months. We must prevent overdose deaths. Prevention is possible when we use our laws to force China to stop the flow of fentanyl analogs.

Opponents of permanent scheduling assert that the authority is broad and could result in too many arrests, but since the Drug Enforcement Administration placed fentanyl analogs in schedule I, the Justice Department has convicted only 80 people under that authority. So too many people being arrested as an argument against their permanent extension is hogwash. This authority hasn't resulted in vast and wide prosecutions; rather, this authority has been targeted and deliberate, and, of course, that is the way it should be.

So if controlling fentanyl analogs is, in fact, bipartisan and necessary, why isn't supporting legislation then a no-brainer? Perhaps because of heightened partisanship, the Democrats can't vote for legislation that helps law enforcement, or maybe they can't be seen as supporting any drug control law even if it could save thousands of lives. This position goes against the unfortunate truth that 50,000 Americans have died from these deadly fentanyl analogs. Politics has no place above human life.

As frustrated as I am by this, it is not my nature to throw in the towel. I will always work hard to find middle ground. That is why I am asking every Senator to support Senator COTTON's permanent extension or, at a minimum, my bill, the Temporary Extension of Fentanyl Scheduling Act. This bipartisan measure extends the authority to schedule fentanyl analogs for 14 months. It keeps fentanyl analogs in schedule I until July 2022, which is long enough for the administration to come to a permanent scheduling solution and allow for a deliberate and transparent dialogue with Congress.

Simply put, we need to give ourselves enough time to find a solution to this major problem causing 50,000 lives to be lost every year. As history shows us, lengthy fentanyl scheduling legislation is not controversial. I am simply asking for a similar, bipartisan approach now. My bill is the only bipartisan temporary extension bill on the table.

I am grateful for Senators HASSAN and SHAHEEN for teaming up with me and Senator CORNYN.

We can't limit ourselves in the fight against fentanyl. It is with this in mind that I urge all of my colleagues to support either a permanent extension or my bipartisan bill and to extend the authority to schedule fentanyl analogs for 14 months.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 185

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, Americans are worried about inflation. New polling shows that 87 percent of Americans are concerned about the rising costs of household items, like diapers and gas and groceries. That is up from 77 percent just last month. They have good reason to feel that way. Right now, reports show that a third of American households making less than \$50,000 in annual income are

buying less because of increasing prices, and more than one-quarter of all households report that rising prices on goods are causing them to purchase less.

Just this month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that, over the last 12 months, food prices have gone up, and gas prices have risen 23 percent. That means, since Biden was elected, gas prices have increased about 70 cents per gallon across the Nation. Year over year, consumer prices increased 2.6 percent in March. That is up from an annual 1.7 percent increase in February. This is all in addition to statements from some of America's largest corporations, like Procter & Gamble and Kimberly-Clark, which recently announced that they are increasing prices on a number of their products. That includes essential household goods, like toilet paper and diapers.

The evidence of inflation is right in front of us. Just look at these numbers that show the percentage change in average unit prices versus last year: groceries up 2.6 percent; household goods up 5.2 percent; baby care up 7 percent; general merchandise up 7.1 percent. Wages never go up this fast. So who does it hurt? It hurts the poorest and those on fixed incomes.

Businesses are also expecting price increases to continue.

According to data from FactSet, 47 S&P companies have mentioned inflation on their earnings calls for Q1 2021. That is more than during any other quarter in the last 10 years.

On its most recent earnings call, Procter & Gamble's chief financial officer, Andre Schulten, said:

The commodity cost challenges we face this year will, obviously, be larger next fiscal year.

Who gets hurt the most when inflation rises? Not the rich. It is working families, especially those on low and fixed incomes.

I grew up poor and watched my parents struggle to put food on the table. I know just how much a slight rise in prices can hurt a family, because I saw it while I was growing up, and that is what is happening right now across our Nation.

We know that those in the Biden administration are worried about this. They know that rising costs caused by their massive spending are bad for Americans, but they won't say it. While they are reportedly worrying in private about the effects of their spending plans, they have had a different message in public.

On April 13, the New York Times reported that officials and aides at the White House and the Department of the Treasury have been holding private meetings for months to discuss inflation and have conducted indepth internal analyses for senior officials and President Biden.

The article goes on to read: